

Remarks:

Status of Claims

Claims 21-48 were previously pending. By way of this Amendment, claims 21, 36, 44, and 45 are amended and claims 40, 42-43 and 49-53 are canceled. Thus, claims 21-28, 31-33, 36, 38-39, 41, 44-45, and 48 are currently pending with claims 1, 36, and 45 being independent.

Office Action

In the June 15, 2006, Office action, the Examiner indicated that independent claim 21, and claims 22-28 and 31-33 which depend therefrom, would be allowable if claim 21 was amended to include a period at its end (Office action, page 5, ¶ 8). The Examiner also indicated that claims 43 and 45 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims (Office action, page 5, ¶ 9).

Claim 21 has been amended herein to include a period. Claim 45 has been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. The limitations of claim 43, and all intervening claims, have been included in independent claim 36. All other claims either depend from these allowable claims or have been canceled. Thus, all pending claims are now in allowable condition.

Further, as this Amendment is submitted within two months of the June 15, 2006, Office action and the amendments made herein place all claims in a condition for allowance, Applicant is entitled to entry of this Amendment – and a subsequent Notice of Allowance – without the submission of a RCE or the payment of extension fees. The amendments made herein do not necessitate any additional searching by the Examiner, as the amendments merely add a period to claim 21 or rewrite various previously-examined dependent claims as independent claims.

In the event of further questions, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned. Any additional fee which might be due in connection with this application should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Application No. 10/797,715
Amendment dated August 9, 2006
Reply to Office action of June 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
HOVEY WILLIAMS LLP

BY: /Sam M. Korte/

Sam M. Korte, Reg. No. 56,557
2405 Grand Blvd., Suite 400
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
(816) 474-9050

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT